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For the Attention of:

The Letters Editor,
The Independent on Sunday,
1 Canada Square,
Canary Wharf,
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Fax No: 0171-293-2042

To FOR THE ATTENTION OF
Company PETER WALKER
From
Company
FAX No. 0171-293-2043 No. of Pages
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10 November 1995.

Dear Editor,

Your disturbing report on Major-General M. Yunus Yosfiah ('Indonesian Officer Linked to Murder of Britons in East Timor Trained in the UK', 5 November) is a timely reminder of a national disgrace: Britain's complicity in Indonesian genocide in East Timor and its support for General Suharto's murderous regime.

Since the mid-1960s, when the Indonesian army orchestrated the killings of over half a million 'Communists' and sentenced many thousands more to a living death in the gulags of Eastern Indonesia, Britain has steadily developed into Jakarta's principle arms supplier, surpassing the US in 1993 due to its sale of British Aerospace Hawk jets to the Indonesian airforce. Given this relationship is it any wonder that neither the Ministry of Defence nor the Foreign Office seek to enquire too closely into the background of the senior Indonesian officers they welcome into our military academies. Thus we find amongst their more illustrious alumni General Yunus's superior officer, General Adolf Sahala Rajagukguk, a graduate of the British Army Staff College (1972-73), who, while East Timor Military Commander in the early 1980s, wrote the principal torture manual for the interrogation of East Timorese prisoners and was later turned down by the US State Department as Indonesia's prospective ambassador to Washington, and Major-General Mochammad Hindarto, a beneficiary of the British Government's Indonesian Police training scheme (now run by the Surrey Police), who came to Britain in 1986 before being appointed police chief of the Eastern Indonesian region covering East Timor (1992-93) during the height of the purges which followed the 12 November 1991 Santa Cruz massacre, when 271 Timorese were killed, 382 were wounded and 250 declared 'missing'.

The fact that, twenty years after the murder of the five Western journalists at Balibo by General (then Captain) Yosfiah's special forces, Indonesian officers are openly boasting about their exploits, is indication enough that they take for granted the indulgence of their Western patrons, not least the British.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Carey

Dr Peter Carey,
Fellow and Tutor in Modern History.